



Area 4 Developmental Disabilities Board

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January 21, 2014

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What's in this edition!

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Future of Developmental Centers

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS IN CALIFORNIA

The DC Task Force Final Report on the Plan for the Future of Developmental Centers in California has been finalized and submitted to the California Legislature. It is now available to view on the California Health and Human Services Agency website:

<http://www.chhs.ca.gov/DCTFDocs/PlanfortheFutureofDevelopmentalCenters.pdf>

For additional background information, please visit the DCs Task Force webpage:

<http://www.chhs.ca.gov/pages/DCsTaskForce.aspx>.

Recommendation 1: More community style homes/facilities should be developed to serve individuals with enduring and complex medical needs using existing models of care.

Recommendation 2: For individuals with challenging behaviors and support needs, the State should operate at least two acute crisis facilities (like the program at Fairview DC), and small transitional facilities. The State should develop a new "Senate Bill (SB) 962 like" model that would provide a higher level of behavioral services. Funding should be made available so that regional centers can expand mobile crisis response teams, crisis hotlines, day programs, short-term crisis homes, new-model behavioral homes, and supported living services for those transitioning to their own homes.

Recommendation 3: For individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system, the State should continue to operate the Porterville DC-STP and the transitional program at Canyon Springs Community Facility. Alternatives to the Porterville DC-STP should also be explored.

Recommendation 4: The development of a workable health resource center model should be explored, to address the complex health needs of DC residents who transition to community homes.

Recommendation 5: The State should enter into public/private partnerships to provide integrated community services on existing State lands, where appropriate. Also, consideration should be given to repurposing existing buildings on DC property for developing service models identified in Recommendations 1 through 4.

Recommendation 6: Another task force should be convened to address how to make the community system stronger.

6th Annual Sonoma Transition Fair



6th Annual Sonoma County Transition Fair

Supporting students with disabilities and their families in the transition to adult life.

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Sonoma County Office of Education
5340 Skylane Blvd., Santa Rosa**

Spanish Interpreters available

Do you have a student with disabilities who is in middle school, high school, or post-secondary education? If so, it's time to discover the possibilities for their adult future!

Get valuable information about, and meet with representatives from:

- **Vocational Training/Employment Options**
- **Adult Day Programs**
- **Higher Education**
- **Residential Options**
- **Health/Mental Health Services**

SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS:

This year Bob Phillips with the *Area Board IV* will discuss recent legislation and Nikarre Redcoff of the *SELPA* will address the IEP process, including the ITP (Individual Transition Plan). In addition, we will have a graduate and a parent discuss their personal experiences in regards to Independent Living Skills. A Spanish interpreter will be available and a sign language interpreter will be available by request.

Panel discussions will start at 3:30 and 5:00

PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE FAIR AND SEATING IS FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

If you require a sign language interpreter contact:

Valerie McKamey, vmckamey@dor.ca.gov or 576-2243 by January 31st, 2014.

ACA Implications for Childhood Mental Health

Affordable Care Act and Covered CA: Implications for Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health

Project Connect NBRC is pleased to invite you to join them for an overview and discussion of the Affordable Care Act and Covered CA implications for Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health in Napa, Sonoma, and Solano Counties.

They will be joined in the conversation by guests representing

Covered CA: Abraham Daniels, MHSA Business Development Manager, County of Sonoma Department of Health Services and

Partnership HealthPlan of California: Sonja L. Bjork, Director of Policy & Program Development, and Lynn Scuri, Associate Regional Director

When: Friday, January 24, 2014, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: North Bay Regional Center, 25 Executive Court, Napa, Room 1

Lunch will be provided

For additional information, please contact Deborah Carnahan at (707) 362-0019 or Deborah@projectconnectnbrc.net

RSVP to Deborah@projectconnectnbrc.net

Employment First Policy



On October 9, 2013, Governor Brown signed AB 1041 (Chesbro), which establishes in statute an Employment First Policy. California became the 12th state to enact an employment first policy in law.

**Employment First Policy
(from WIC Sect. 4869. (a) (1))**

It is the policy of the state that opportunities for integrated, competitive employment shall be given the highest priority for working age individuals with developmental disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities.

The Statute Explains Why

The Employment First Policy was established “in furtherance of the purposes of this division (the Lanterman Act) to make services and supports available to enable persons with developmental disabilities to approximate the pattern of everyday living available to people without disabilities of the same age, to support the integration of persons with developmental disabilities into the mainstream life of the community, and to bring about more independent, productive, and normal lives...” Section 4869(a)(1)

Definitions

Integrated Employment occurs “in work in a setting typically found in the community in which individuals interact with individuals without disabilities other than those who are providing services to those individuals, to the same extent that individuals without disabilities in comparable positions interact with other persons.”

Competitive Employment means “work in the competitive labor market that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis in an integrated setting and for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals who are not disabled.”

Microenterprises are “small businesses owned by individuals with developmental disabilities who have control and responsibility for decision-making and overseeing the business, with accompanying business licenses, taxpayer identification numbers other than social security numbers, and separate business bank accounts. Microenterprises may be considered integrated competitive employment.”

“Self-employment” means an employment setting in which an individual works in a chosen occupation, for profit or fee, in his or her own small business, with control and responsibility for decisions affecting the conduct of the business.

REQUIREMENTS

4869(b) The State Council on Developmental Disabilities shall develop an informational brochure about the Employment First Policy, translate the brochure into various languages, and post the brochure on its website.

4868(c) (4and 5) The Employment First Committee of the Council shall recommend goals for measuring employment participation and outcomes for various consumers within the developmental services system and identify existing sources of data for identifying employment outcomes by age, gender, ethnicity, types of disability, and geographic location of consumers.

4869(c) Regional centers shall provide consumers 16 years of age or older, and, when appropriate, their parents, legal guardians, conservators, or authorized representative with information, in an understandable form, about the Employment First Policy, options for integrated competitive employment, and services and supports, including postsecondary education, that are available to enable the consumer to transition from school to work and to achieve the outcomes of obtaining and maintaining integrated competitive employment.

4869(a)(3) Integrated competitive employment is intended to be **the first option considered by planning teams** for working age individuals, but individuals may choose goals other than integrated competitive employment.

4869(a)(4) Postsecondary education, technical or vocational training, and internship programs may be considered as **a means to achieve integrated competitive employment or career advancement**.

4869(d) The Department of Developmental Services may request information from regional centers on current and planned activities related to the Employment First Policy.

Real People, Real Jobs

This site highlights the employment successes of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who are working in paid jobs in their communities. Through the use of innovative, front-line employment support practices, these individuals are earning money, forming networks, and contributing to their communities. Learn more about these people and the promising practices that led to their success.

<http://www.realworkstories.org/>

Area 4 Board Information

Visit our web page at <http://www.scdd.ca.gov/areaboard4.htm> for information on meetings and resources.

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*Sign up for our free e-newsletter, contact Robin.tigh@scdd.ca.gov